

# SGS Award Announcement

**To:** Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators  
**From:** Debbie Chau, Graduate Awards Officer  
Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; John Peever, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid  
**CC:**  
**Date:** August 14, 2023  
**Re:** **2023-2024 Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements for CGS Award Holders**

SGS will send this announcement to CGS recipients who hold awards administered by the University. Please forward this announcement to current Vanier and CIHR CGS D holders whose awards are being administered through an affiliated hospital.

## Award Overview

**Student Deadline:** September 25, 2023  
**Value/Duration:** Up to \$6,000 to fund 2-6 months of travel  
**Level of study:** Master's or Doctoral  
**Eligibility:** CGS award holders (CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC)  
**Required Legal Status:** Canadian citizen or permanent resident  
**Where to apply:** SGS Graduate Awards Office

## Purpose

The Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS) Program supports high calibre Canadian graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions abroad. By accessing international scientific research and training, CGS-MSFSS recipients will contribute to strengthening the potential for collaboration between Canadian universities and affiliated research institutions and universities, or other research institutions outside of Canada. A total of 250 awards are available Canada-wide each year. The current distribution of supplements among the three agencies is: 125 for SSHRC, 80 for NSERC, and 45 for CIHR.

## Eligibility to Apply

In order to be eligible, you must:

1. have accepted or hold one of the following awards:
  - o Canadian Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS M);
  - o CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Doctoral Award (CGS D);
  - o NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Doctoral (CGS D);
  - o SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral (CGS D); or
  - o Vanier CGS
2. depart for your proposed trip abroad:
  - after the CGS-MSFSS federal competition close date (October 10, 2023\*); and

- within one year of receiving the notice of award for the CGS-MSFSS; but
  - no later than the last day of your CGS award tenure
3. be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada by the application deadline;
  4. propose a research period of a minimum of two months to a maximum of six months; and
  5. not hold or have held another CGS-MSFSS.

To remain eligible, successful recipients must:

1. hold an active CGS award at the time your research study abroad period starts;
2. be registered full time in a graduate research studies program at a Canadian institution for the duration of the research study period abroad; and
3. return to complete the degree in Canada.

Complete program details are available on the single harmonized program description hosted on NSERC's website (see below under Contacts and Resources).

## Safety Abroad

Please also be aware that restrictions around travel may change without any notice. As such, please stay up to date with all communication on the U of T [Learning & Safety Abroad Student's page](#).

Safety Abroad procedures are **mandatory** for all U of T students travelling internationally, including to the U.S.A., and must be completed before the travel occurs (regardless of receiving funding). Students residing in the same location as their research activity, are not exempt from Safety Abroad requirements. Research travel that is conducted without prior completion of all Safety Abroad requirements may render students ineligible to receive their funding.

Before travelling on university activity abroad, there are certain steps that you must complete:

1. Contact the Safety Abroad Office directly by emailing [safety.abroad@utoronto.ca](mailto:safety.abroad@utoronto.ca) to discuss your planned travel and be added to the Safety Abroad Registry;
2. Complete the online Safety Abroad pre-departure workshop (valid for 1.5 years); and
3. Obtain supplementary health insurance (if not already covered).

For the most up to date information, refer to the [Learning & Safety Abroad website](#).

## Application Process

Applicants must complete an [online SGS MSFSS Cover Page](#) by Monday, September 25, 2023, 4:30 p.m. Applications that are incomplete, ineligible or are submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Note:

- A PDF copy of the applicant's MSFSS Application Form, Intended Research Plan, and agency Consent Form(s) are to be uploaded to the online SGS MSFSS Cover Page.
- Each agency has its own application form and instructions, available on the [MSFSS website](#), and care should be taken to ensure that the appropriate form is used.
- Letters of support from your UofT supervisor and host supervisor must be emailed by each as a PDF attachment directly to [debbie.chau@utoronto.ca](mailto:debbie.chau@utoronto.ca) by the application deadline.
- For further application information and notes, see the Application Process section on the [SGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements webpage](#).

## Results

SGS will notify all applicants of the results of the University competition prior to the Tri-agency application deadline. Decisions regarding the national competition are usually released two months after the competition deadline directly to students by the granting agency.

## Contact and Resources

For more information, please contact the SGS Graduate Awards Officer, at [debbie.chau@utoronto.ca](mailto:debbie.chau@utoronto.ca) or the council administering your CGS award (for NSERC and SSHRC inquiries, be sure to include the subject line MSFSS in your email).

For complete program information please refer to the [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Program website](#).

### **CIHR**

CGS-MSFSS Program Design and Delivery Branch

Email: [CGSMSFSS-SEEMSBESC@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:CGSMSFSS-SEEMSBESC@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

### **NSERC**

CGS-MSFSS Scholarships and Fellowships Division

Email: [schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

### **SSHRC**

CGS-MSFSS Research Training Portfolio

Email: [fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)